

low-income families. He also championed tenants' and workers' rights, inspiring lawmakers in both major parties to listen to the voices of average Californians. All the while, he was a loving husband to his wife of 60 years, the late Anna Vlahos.

On a personal note, I was incredibly honored to succeed Senator Petris upon his retirement due to term limits in 1996. He was a steadfast friend and provided wise counsel to me throughout my time in the California Legislature. Particularly, I will always remember Senator Petris and his beloved wife, Anna, taking me to dinner prior to my first visit to Greece. They provided me with invaluable travel tips for restaurants, shopping, and tourist attractions that made my first visit so exciting. Senator Petris' beloved Greece became one of my favorite countries to visit.

Today, we mourn the loss of a wise political pioneer, a respected lawmaker, and an innovative thinker who helped shape the State of California as we know it. His legislative insight, legendary eloquence, and the camaraderie he inspired among his colleagues is unmatched. Senator Nicholas Petris' legacy continues to thrive among generations of advocates committed to championing progressive California policy as a model for environmental and social justice throughout the world. I offer my sincerest condolences to his surviving family and to the many friends and associates whose lives he touched over the course of his long and fruitful life. He will be deeply missed.

JHAMIER RYAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jhamier Ryan for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jhamier Ryan is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jhamier Ryan is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jhamier Ryan for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, April 9th, 2013, I missed rollcall vote numbers 90, 91, and 92 for unavoidable reasons.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall no. 90: "yea" (On motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 254, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to facilitate the development of hydroelectric power on the Diamon Fork System of the Central Utah Project.)

Rollcall no. 91: "nay" (On motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1033, to authorize the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 under the American Battlefield Protection Program.)

Rollcall no. 92: "yea" (On approving the Journal.)

INTRODUCTION OF RFS REFORM ACT AND RFS ELIMINATION ACT

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I have long been a critic of the renewable fuel standard and we must act now to fix this broken policy.

While the livestock industry has been witnessing the effects of the RFS mandate for several years, the drought last year highlighted for many the extreme reach of the RFS throughout our economy. But even before the drought, by diverting feed stocks to fuel there have been diminished corn supplies for livestock and food producers. Tightening supplies have driven up the price of corn. The higher cost for corn is passed on to livestock and food producers. In turn, consumers see that price reflected in the price of food on the grocery store shelves and restaurants.

This year, the U.S. is expected to hit the blend wall—where the ethanol mandate will require more ethanol be produced than can be safely blended into gasoline. In order to address the blend wall by reducing the RFS mandate, EPA is working to push E15. EPA has granted a partial waiver to allow E15 blends for model cars 2001 and newer, despite the fact that a study from the Coordinating Research Council, commissioned by U.S. automakers and oil companies, found that 25 percent of cars approved by the EPA to run on E15 experienced engine damage—and even failure. The EPA should not be promoting fuel that is unsafe on the roadways just to meet a mandate.

EPA administrators from both parties have constantly refused to use the flexibility granted to them by law to alter the RFS, so Congress must act. That is why I am introducing two bills that would alter this artificially created government market.

The first bill, the Renewable Fuel Standard Elimination Act is simple; it would eliminate the RFS and make ethanol compete in a free market. The government should not be creating a market to sustain an entire industry. While, I believe that we should completely eliminate the RFS, I recognize that there may not yet be the political will in Congress to completely eliminate this mandate. And while there may not yet be the political will to elimi-

nate this mandate we have to address the reality that we are being confronted and reform the broken RFS policy.

That is why I have joined with several colleagues in introducing legislation to reform the RFS. The Renewable Fuel Standard Reform Act eliminates the corn based ethanol requirements and caps the amount of ethanol that can be blended into conventional gasoline at 10 percent—a level that is safe for all vehicle models. And this legislation will require the EPA to set cellulosic biofuels levels at production levels—oil and gas refiners should not be fined for not being able to blend products that do not exist.

More than 40 diverse organizations are joining us to call for action to address the problems created by the RFS mandate. This is no longer just a debate about fuel or food. It is also a debate about jobs, small business, and economic growth. This mandate has wide reaching and negative impacts on a broad swath of industries. Congress created this artificial market that is distorting the food and feed market, and we must provide relief of its unintended consequences. I urge the Congress to pass this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote Number 91 "To authorize the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 under the American Battlefield Protection Program" (H.R. 1033). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

JEREMIAH BATES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jeremiah Bates for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jeremiah Bates is an 11th grader at Jeffco's 21st Century Virtual Academy and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jeremiah Bates is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jeremiah Bates for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.